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The Return

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Devontae Shuler

FILE PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNOSN
ILLUSTRATION: KATHERINE BUTLER

Till center raises \$20K in 6 days

MADDY QUON
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Six days after white supremacists filmed a video at the new, bulletproof Emmett Till memorial that caused a social media uproar, \$20,000 has been donated to the Emmett Till Interpretive Center.

Security footage showed eight members of the white supremacist group, the League of the South, gathered around the Emmett Till memorial waving both the Mississippi state and a League of the South flag on Saturday. A security alarm was sounded, and the group scattered.

“Thanks to the white supremacist group that visited our marker to 14 year-old, Emmett Till. Because of you: we raised \$20,000, two major foundations contacted us and we have had countless visitors to our museum, website and 3,000 new twitter followers,” the Emmett Till Interpretive Center tweeted.

Patrick Weems, the executive director of the Emmett Till Interpretive Center, said that he thought that it was great that the Emmett Till Interpretive Center received more publicity after the white supremacists visited the memorial.

Weems also referenced this year’s incident involving then-members of Kappa Alpha fraternity posing with guns in

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Pegues named interim

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After Brandi Hephner LaBanc, formerly the vice chancellor for student affairs, announced that she plans to leave the University of Mississippi, assistant provost Charlotte Fant Pegues will be taking over as the interim vice chancellor for student affairs Nov. 13. Pegues has worked at

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More than a pageant winner

CAROLINE NIHILL
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Asya Branch, the first African American Miss Mississippi USA, is currently preparing for her next stop in the pageant circuit while maintaining classes and a job. Branch’s schedule consists of living her day-to-day life as if she has already won the Miss USA crown through the inspiration of former crowned women. Through her recent success, she has earned a modeling contract with MMG Model Management. On top of preparing herself for the next round of competition, Branch maintains a full

class schedule, a full-time and part-time job and hits the gym about four times a week. “You know, you can do a lot more than you think you can. It’s pushing yourself to do it and making it happen,” Branch said. “No excuses.” Branch will also be promoting her brand of “I Am More,” through the platform the crown has given her. The phrase is the head of the brand to reach those who may be dealing with difficulties and hardships. “I am so much more than the hardships that I’ve been through, and I’m so much more than just a title,” Branch said. “I’m so much more than just a

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KERRIGAN HERRET / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Asya Branch was recently crowned Miss Mississippi USA. Branch will compete for the title of Miss USA in the spring.

Mississippi the only state to improve in education tests

LIBBY HUFHAM
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The state of Mississippi has shown increased scores in all grades and subject areas in the 2019 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in 2019.

The NAEP tests students' knowledge in various subjects, such as math and reading, and has the moniker of the "Nation's Report Card." It is administered to a representative sample of students across the country and has been providing information about how students perform academically nationally since 1969.

Mississippi has shown advancement since 2007 and has become a leader in NAEP improvement. Between 2005 and 2019, Mississippi increased its scores in all grades and subject areas of the national exam.

In the 2019 NAEP results, Mississippi was the only state to see improvement in three of the four tested subjects: fourth grade reading and math, as well as eighth grade math. The results mark the first time Mississippi has met or outperformed national averages.

This year, Mississippi tied the national average in fourth grade reading and exceeded the average in fourth grade math by one point. The state still falls behind the national average in eighth grade reading and math. Nationally, scores for most NAEP subjects dropped or held steady from 2017 to 2019.

The test is scored on a scale ranging from 1 to 500 points. The Nation's Report Card reported that in 2019, the average score of fourth grade students in Mississippi was 219, up four points from 2017. The percentage of fourth grade students who performed at or above the NAEP's proficiency

level in reading was 32%. Sixty-five percent percent performed at or above the NAEP's basic level.

Statistics also reflect that the learning gap among racial groups is shrinking; Mississippi's African American and Hispanic students outperformed their peers nationally in fourth grade

The National Assessment Governing Board reported several key strategies that led to Mississippi's success – Mississippi has created new, more rigorous academic standards that are better aligned to national expectations for students.

The state began administering a new state

mathematics; students in fifth and eighth grade are also tested in science, biology and U.S. history and assesses students' proficiency and/or advanced level of knowledge in each subject.

Mississippi has also started to put more focus on literacy in schools. In 2013, the state passed the Literacy-Based Promotion Act that increased expectations for teachers and students in the classroom.

Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, students who score at the lowest achievement level in reading are not promoted to fourth grade, unless the student qualifies for a good cause exemption.

"The Literacy-Based Promotion Act places an emphasis on grade-level reading skills, particularly as students' progress through grades K-3," said the Mississippi Department of Education in a press release. "In an effort to support schools in their literacy efforts, the MDE has deployed educators with expertise in literacy to a number of support schools across Mississippi."

Mississippi was the only state to see improvement in three of the four tested subjects: fourth grade reading and math, as well as eighth grade math.

reading and math.

Fourth grade African American students had an average reading score that was 21 points lower than that for white students. In 1998, the performance gap was 26 points.

Students who were eligible for the National School Lunch Program had an average score that was 24 points lower than that for students who were not eligible.

assessment, the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP), during the 2015-2016 school year that was based on the NAEP test to ensure that students are learning the subjects expected to be covered on the exam.

Students first take the MAAP in the third grade and continue throughout high school. The MAAP tests proficiency in English language arts and

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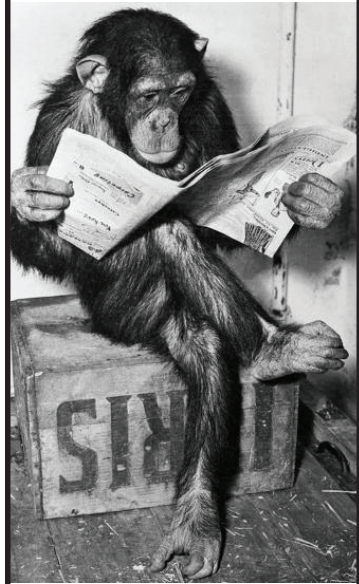
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TICKET
IN THE OTHER**





EMMETT TILL INTERPRETIVE CENTER VIA TWITTER

Security cameras at the Emmett Till Interpretive Center captured members of the League of the South group filming a promotional video at the Emmett Till memorial.

TILL

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front of the Till memorial, saying that people will continue to mock the sign because they will likely face no consequences.

“We’re able to control the narrative and put a positive spin on the situation,” Weems said. “The only way to stop (this hatred) is for people to stand up for this type of thing.”

It was discovered later that

the League of the South was at the memorial to make a propaganda video.

“What we want to know is, where are all the white people over the last 50 years that have been murdered, assaulted and raped by blacks going to be memorialized like this? We are League of the South,” League of the South leader Michael Hill said in the video.

The League of the South is a white supremacist, neo-Confederate group based in

Killen, Alabama. According to their website, their goal is to have a “free and independent Southern republic.”

The new memorial, which replaced three previous versions that were vandalized, was installed last month.

The memorial they were surrounding marks where Emmett Till, a 14-year-old African American boy, was found after being kidnapped, tortured and lynched by two white men in Money, Mississippi in 1955.

OPD donates trauma kits for school shootings

MASON SCIONEUX
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The Oxford Police Department is using the \$7,500 they raised from their 14th annual haunted house to purchase trauma kits for each classroom in the Oxford School District.

The purpose of the trauma kits is to stop bleeding, which is the leading cause of death in shootings. They include a tourniquet, a packing kit for gunshot wounds, gloves, gauze and other medical supplies.

Interim Police Chief Jeff McCutchen told the Board of Aldermen OPD’s plans to create the trauma kits at their meeting on Nov. 5. OPD donates the money from the haunted house each year.

Ivy, who teaches active shooter drills to civilians, said that providing Oxford schools with trauma kits will add a level of preparation that can give parents and teachers the peace of mind that they are equipped to deal with such situations.

“Well, it’s kind of like putting on your seatbelt before you drive,” he said. “You hope you’re wasting your time. You hope you don’t need it, but you might. This is the same thing. It’s being prepared. I think the parents appreciate that we’re trying to prepare the schools, teachers and their kids

for any situations that they may come upon, and hope that they never use any of it. That’s our ultimate hope.”

Ivy said that providing the trauma kits is a response to recent pushes from the state legislature to heighten school training for active shooter situations. Active shooter drills are now required once per semester.

“We talk about the need for need for preparation and for medical (supplies) if you’re ever caught in that situation,” Ivy said. “So we approached Superintendent Brian Harvey, and he said that they had already installed four trauma kits per hallway, but if it becomes an emergency on lockdown, you really need a kit in each room.”

Heather Lenard, the communications coordinator of the Oxford School District, commended OPD for the work they do to protect the children of Oxford.

“We are fortunate to have an incredible partnership with the Oxford Police Department,” Lenard said. “Thanks to OPD, we have safe campuses, but now they have provided the necessary tools to react quickly and provide care while waiting for help to arrive. Having these trauma kits in every classroom provides yet another layer of confidence for our teachers and students in the event of an emergency.”

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Khadi m “Dream” Sy

A journey from Senegal to Oxford

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With under 20 seconds of overtime to go in the 2016 DICK’s High School National title game in Madison Square Garden, the Oak Hill Academy Warriors needed a bucket.

As time ran down with the score tied at 60, Matt Coleman dribbled down the court and lifted a shot from the top of the arc. The shot was off, but under the rim wrestling for position was the 6-foot-9 tower that is Khadi m Sy.

The Senegalese center reached up at the rebound, looking for the tip-in. The first one just missed, but the second tip fell in the basket as the buzzer sounded. Within seconds, Sy was at the bottom of a dog pile. He was finally a champion.

Khadi m Sy, known simply as “Dream” to his teammates and coaches, went from a high school freshman sitting at the end of the bench getting zero minutes of play time to becoming a national championship hero in basketball mecca.

Sy’s high school arc is fitting, considering that change has been the only constant in his basketball career. He’s gone from starting at Virginia Tech as a college freshman to playing in junior college before becoming one of the top transfer recruits in the nation.

He’s been a chameleon since the dawn of his basketball life, suiting up for Senegal, Oak Hill Academy in Virginia, Virginia Tech, Tallahassee Community College, Virginia Tech again and Daytona State Community College, all in just a few years.

Sy’s voyage from Senegal to America now brings him to a new start in Oxford as a key piece in Kermit Davis’s basketball revival at Ole Miss.

Sy’s basketball journey didn’t start until he was a teenager. Wrestling is the national sport of Senegal, but because of limited access, Sy mostly played soccer as a child. However, his extraordinary height forced him off of the pitch and onto the court.

“When I started getting tall back in 2012, everybody would tell me every single day, ‘Oh you’re getting tall.’ I didn’t notice that at all,” he said. “Like, ‘You’re tall. You should start playing ball.’”

While he enjoyed playing soccer with his friends, Sy said he didn’t really fall in love with sports until he picked up the basketball.

Scouts quickly noticed his raw talent when he was still 6-foot-6 as a middle schooler, dominating the Sengalese leagues. It was Amadou Gallo Fall, current vice president and managing director for NBA Africa, who helped him get exposure with American high schools.

Sy was contacted by Oak Hill Academy head coach Steve Smith after being selected for the U-16 national basketball team in Senegal.

“I don’t know how they got my information. They reached out to

me and (asked) me if I’m interested in coming to American to play ball for high school. I was like ‘of course,’” Sy said. “When I said yes, it took about a week or two, and then everything was done. After two weeks of communication, I was ready to move in here.”

Smith has coached 28 McDonald’s All-Americans and 17 future NBA players, including Carmelo Anthony, Kevin Durant and Rajon Rondo, at the prestigious boarding school in Mouth of Wilson, Virginia.

Still, Sy had to go through physical and mental growing pains before he could reach his potential in high school.

“When I came (to America), the first year was really tough. I was begging coach (Smith) to send me back to Senegal like every single week,” Sy said. “I was just like, ‘I don’t know if I can do this.’”

Oak Hill assistant coach Taylor Conn picked him up from the Charlotte airport and remembered Sy couldn’t speak any English. The only thing Sy knew how to say was that he played like Anthony Davis.

“We get on that huge shuttle, and there’s nobody on there,” Conn said. “I sit down in this really small seat, and (Sy) came and sat in the very next seat to me, squishing me into the wall. He still laughs about that.”

Conn’s parents, Randy and Pattie, helped Sy adjust to his new home as he’d visit during school breaks and holidays. They helped him with advice frequently, even helping him make his college decisions. Sy called them mom and dad and saw Taylor as a brother.

As he grew more and more comfortable off the court, he was able to establish himself on the court.

Sy gained 35 pounds in his first summer at Oak Hill and continued to develop his basketball skills until he had a major role on the team. The state-of-the-art facilities at Oak Hill helped Sy build his body and skill set to take on the top big men in the nation.

“When I came (to America), the first year was really tough. I was begging coach (Smith) to send me back to Senegal like every single week. I was just like, ‘I don’t know if I can do this.’”

- Khadi m Sy

“I mean, we have pictures of him when he first got here and then two years later,” Smith said. “It was an unbelievable transformation in his body, but he put the work in. It didn’t happen just because we have a good weight program.”

Success at Oak Hill brought him the nickname “Dream,” along with notoriety on the recruiting trail as a three-star prospect with interest from Purdue, Georgia Tech and Georgetown. He decided to play for Buzz Williams at Virginia Tech, where he was thrown into a primary role after



REED JONES / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Khadi m Sy enrolled at Ole Miss in May after stints at Virginia Tech and Daytona State. The 6-foot-10 forward was one of the top junior college prospects in the nation last season.

another player’s injury allowed him to start 28 games as a freshman.

The promising start ended in a roller coaster, however, as Sy grew unhappy in Blacksburg and left the team to transfer to Tallahassee

humbled me better. It made me grateful about what I have, knowing that, you know, you can’t have this thing today and not have it tomorrow.”

Preparing for another transition, Sy said he was searching for a coach and a program he could trust to make the adjustment easier. After looking at East Carolina, Pittsburgh, Arkansas and Auburn, the four-star chose Kermit Davis and the Ole Miss Rebels.

The fact that Sy played with junior guard and fellow Oak Hill alumnus Devontae Shuler and that his Daytona State teammate Bryce Williams also chose to play at Ole Miss didn’t hurt, but Sy said most of his decision was made off of his meetings with Kermit Davis.

“I’ve got trust issues. I’m going to tell you straight up,” Sy said. “I trust the coaches 100%. I trust my teammates 100%. Most of the time, I don’t really ask the coach anything about the team. I’m just asking them personally what’s the purpose of recruiting me. So after that, when I need to know about the team, I ask the players.”

Sy’s relationship with Shuler and Williams has been the bridge

to every other teammate since he arrived in Oxford in May.

“I come down and find out the whole team, they’re all cool,” he said. “Like, it took me two, three days to just get along with all of them and get to know them. Usually, (it) took me about a month to make sure I got every one of their names right and stuff. But with this situation, it just clicked.”

That chemistry will be put to the test as Sy has pressure to live up to his nickname in the Davis system this season. His presence in the paint is something that has been missing from past Ole Miss squads.

Sy’s contribution as a rim protector and scorer in the paint with his 6-foot-10 frame adds another dimension to the Ole Miss attack ready to explode in the next two years.

Oxford is just the latest of Sy’s many homes, and his journey to Ole Miss, while unusual, is a story of perseverance. As Sy continues to work, he hopes to find himself under another dog pile.

“I came here, (and) I get along with everybody,” Sy said. “I feel like I’m home.”

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



BILLY SCHUERMAN / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

No Ceilings: Coach Yo enters season two at Ole Miss

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The 2018-19 Ole Miss women's basketball season was one to be forgotten. The team finished with a 9-22 overall record and ended the season on a six-game losing streak.

The team is currently predicted to finish second to last in the SEC, but there is a quiet confidence building within the program.

Coach Yolett McPhee-McCuin, known affectionately to the team as "Coach Yo," had a tough task in front of her during her first year, as the Rebels were picked to finish last in the SEC. They finished near the bottom of the conference but improved their SEC win total from the previous year by two games and fought for an impressive win over No. 16 Kentucky in January.

Most of the team's struggles last year were on the road, where they only achieved one win for the season. However, the home results were much more encouraging, with almost 90% of team wins happening in Oxford. Even a slight improvement on the road, as is expected this year, would be huge for the team's success this year.

Coach Yo, now in her second year at Ole Miss, has the Rebels at 1-0 after a 72-53 win over Mississippi Valley State in The Pavilion on Tuesday.

Junior guard Deja Cage, who is coming out of a redshirt season after transferring from DePaul, registered a career-high 16 points on 70% shooting in her Ole Miss debut. Sophomore guard Taylor Smith led the way with 18 points, which doubled her previous career high.



BILLY SCHUERMAN / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Dominique Banks lines up for a free throw.

Though the team struggled with turnovers, giving up possession 19 times, the Rebels still dominated the court for long stretches of the game, including the second quarter where they outscored the Devilettes 21-6.

The Rebels will face a brutally competitive conference ladder and must drastically reduce their turnovers.

The Rebels will remain at home against ULM on Nov. 10 and against New Orleans on Nov. 15. These games represent an opportunity to start the season 3-0 as ULM finished near the bottom of the Sun Belt last year, and New Orleans was middle-of-the-pack in the Southland Conference.

The development of talented newcomers freshman Sarah

Dumitrescu and junior transfer Valerie Nesbitt and the continued development of Taylor Smith represent a major spot for growth on the team.

Three-point specialist Torri Lewis will also be invaluable as the team faces off against future SEC opponents with strong defense.

Despite initial optimism, the reality is that we will know much more about the team after the Daytona Beach Invitational in late November.

This year will undoubtedly be full of struggles and frustrations, but Coach Yo really seems to be building something good here and doing it the right way. A team motto and Twitter bio this year, "No Ceilings," is indicative of fierce team spirit.



BILLY SCHUERMAN / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Valerie Nesbitt tosses the ball over MVSU players in the first quarter of the win over the Delta Devils.

SEC MEN'S BASKETBALL

A guide to the unforgiving landscape of SEC basketball

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The SEC has slowly become a dominant force in men's college basketball. There have always been some blue bloods in the conference with legendary Kentucky and Florida programs, but this era of SEC basketball is characterized by something that it has never been known for: depth.

Eleven teams in the conference have a realistic shot at making a run to the tournament. Ole Miss is trying to reach the Big Dance in back-to-back years for the first time since 2002, and the strength of the league this season could end up helping with plenty of opportunity for quality win throughout league play.

Kentucky:
 Kentucky is at the top of the conference. The perennial powerhouse came into this year ranked No. 2 in the country and knocked off No. 1 Michigan State on Tuesday, in their first game of the season. The Wildcats forced 16 turnovers against an experienced Spartans squad that features point guard Cassius Winston, the only unanimous AP preseason All-American this year.

Freshman guard Tyrese Maxey was stellar off the bench, pouring

in 26 points on 7-12 shooting. His deep three-pointer with a minute left iced the game and solidified his position as one of the premiere players to watch this season.

Florida:
 The Gators are expected to be one of the top teams in the country after a disappointing campaign last year.

They cruised by North Florida in their first game this season behind an impressive debut from transfer Kerry Blackshear Jr. The former Virginia Tech forward scored 20 points and grabbed 10 boards while taking just 11 shots in the game. They will need consistent production from him if they want to earn one of the top seeds in the conference.

LSU:
 No. 22 LSU earned a No. 3 seed in the tournament last year behind a star-studded cast that included Naz Reid, Tremont Waters and redshirt senior Kavell Bigby-Williams, none of whom are on the team this year.

Auburn:
 No. 24 Auburn is in an interesting situation heading into this season. Bruce Pearl's squad lost their three best players last year in Bryce Brown, Jared Harper and Chuma Okeke. All three are now in

the NBA's G-League, leaving the Tigers with a scoring void. Much of that void will be filled by seniors Daniel Purifoy and J'Von McCormick.

Alabama:
 First-year head coach Nate Oats takes over a much-improved Alabama program after the school parted ways with Avery Johnson. The team is without star Dazon Ingram who is now at Central Florida as a graduate transfer. They did bring in West Virginia transfer James Bolden, as well as a trio of four-star freshman guards. Sophomore guard Kira Lewis Jr. is ready for a bigger role and should play well next to junior John Petty.

Mississippi State:
 Mississippi State made the tournament for the first time in 10 years last season on the backs of the Weatherspoon brothers. Senior Quindary and sophomore Nick both had solid seasons next to freshman standout Reggie Perry. Nick Weatherspoon and Perry both return, as well as senior guard Tyson Carter who poured in 23 points in the team's opening win over Florida International.

Tennessee:
 Tennessee is expected to have perhaps the largest drop-off of any



BILLY SCHUERMAN / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Ole Miss men's basketball coach Kermit Davis will have to navigate what might be the strongest conference in the NCAA.

SEC team this season after last year's veteran team was knocked down by Purdue in the Sweet 16. The Volunteers earned a No. 2 seed in the South region, behind strong campaigns from seniors Admiral Schofield and Kyle Alexander as well as juniors Jordan Bone and Grant Williams.

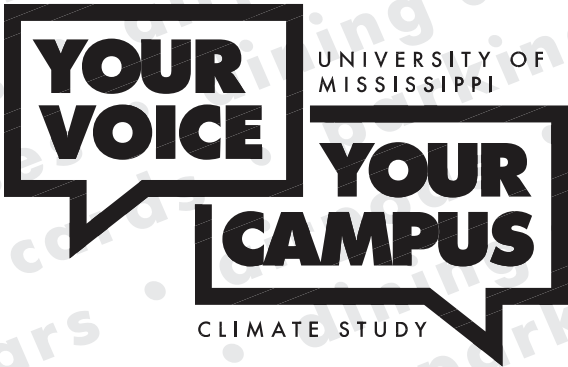
Georgia:
 Anthony Edwards. Nothing else needs to be said about Georgia basketball this season. The No. 4 recruit in the class of 2019 is the real deal and a surefire lottery pick who starred in the Bulldogs' 91-72 win over Western Carolina. He scored 24 points, the most by a Georgia freshman since Hall-of-Famer Dominique Wilkins dropped 26 against Troy in 1979.

Arkansas:
 Arkansas is a team to look out for this season. Not on the radar of most analysts, the Razorbacks are

in a similar position as Ole Miss was last year with a veteran team headed by first-year coach Eric Musselman.

Texas A&M:
 Texas A&M is another team with a new head coach trying to turn some heads. After five successful seasons at Virginia Tech, the Aggies hope Buzz Williams is the answer to their recent woes. With just two tournament appearances in the past nine years, A&M has been one of the more disappointing teams in the SEC since joining the conference in 2012.

Not all of these teams will make the tournament. At most, the conference will send eight teams, but these 10, along with the Rebels, are all fighting for those spots. College basketball is back, and the SEC is the conference to watch.



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COLUMN

Breein Tyree’s path to SEC Player of the Year

GRIFFIN NEAL
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Breein Tyree is the best player in the Southeastern conference.

There are a litany of arguments in Tyree’s favor, but the strongest is addition by subtraction.

Tyree, the 6-foot-2 senior guard from Somerset, New Jersey, has never had this opportunity before. Last season, Tyree was the leading scorer, but it was Terence Davis’ team. His sophomore season, Deandre Burnett was the lead scoring guard. In Tyree’s freshman season, he only averaged 19 minutes per game. In high school, Tyree shared the court with Karl Anthony Towns (first overall pick in the 2015 NBA draft), Wade Baldwin (17th pick in the 2016 NBA draft) and Tyus Battle (an all-ACC guard for Syracuse and member of the Minnesota Timberwolves system).

Tyree is also the only remaining player in the SEC from last season’s all-conference teams. At SEC media days, Tyree was selected to the preseason first team but not picked as the preseason favorite for player of the year. That honor was bestowed upon Kerry Blackshear of Florida, who Tyree will have the chance to play against in January.

Simply put: in over seven years, this is Tyree’s best opportunity to take the reins of a program and



FILE PHOTO: REED JONES / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

Ole Miss guard Breein Tyree drives the ball down court on Senior Night against Kentucky last season.

prove to the country that he is one of college basketball’s premiere guards.

Don’t take my word for it. Let the numbers do the talking.

Tyree is the unquestioned leader of the team and the Rebels’ most lethal scoring threat. Kermit Davis’ team will be tasked with replacing Terence Davis and his 15.2 points per game, and it’s not a stretch to imagine that Tyree will assume the lionshare of Terence Davis’ workload.

Last season, following Burnett’s departure, Tyree increased his shots per game from 9.7 to 13, his minutes from

25.2 to 33.8 and free throws from 2.5 to 4.7. All of his percentages increased as well. On shots inside the arc, Tyree shot 46% (39% in 2017-18). He increased his three-point percentage from 35.6% to 37.5% and increased his free throw percentage from 70% to 81% on nearly double the amount of attempts.

Tyree is also the most efficient player returning to the SEC, according to KenPom. Last season, Tyree logged an offensive rating of 111.7, meaning that per every 100 possessions of basketball, Tyree generated 25.2 points for Ole Miss. He also was third in the

SEC in minutes played, appearing in 84.3% of available minutes. That number will only increase as Kermit Davis can’t stagger the minutes of Tyree and Terence Davis anymore.

But it’s not all roses for Tyree. With Terence Davis’ departure comes the departure of his shot creation, something Tyree has struggled with since becoming a fixture in Ole Miss’ backcourt. In three seasons in Oxford, Tyree has never averaged over three assists per game. Last season, he averaged 2.8 assists per game despite having a 25.2 usage rate (good for 12th in the SEC). In fact, in 99 games played, Tyree has logged over five assists only four times and has never logged more than six.

At Ole Miss media day in September, Tyree said that he definitely needs to improve his playmaking this season.

“My assists were 2.9-3 last season, (and) I want to bring it to at least five,” he said.

He was one of 24 invitees to Chris Paul’s point guard camp this summer, where offensive distribution was emphasized. After all, CP3 is the point god.

Tyree is not a point guard, though. He’s a combo guard who will occasionally initiate the offense in the halfcourt, so a low-ish assist rate is expected. However, as teams begin to cater defensive schemes to stopping Tyree offen-

sively, he must become a more potent distributor if this team projects any success later in the season. It’s also necessary if Tyree has any hopes of being drafted.

He tested the NBA waters this offseason, entering his name into the draft without signing an agent, which allowed him to return to school for his senior season. Right now, Tyree doesn’t project as an NBA-caliber shooting guard.

He’s undersized for the position, doesn’t shoot the three ball at a high enough percentage to make up for his passing woes and is only an average to above-average defender. However, he’s a violent leaper and excels in the open court. His shot selection has rapidly improved over three seasons in Oxford and is a strong finisher around the rim. Terence Davis wasn’t a pro-prospect at this time last season, and now he’s logging legitimate minutes for the defending-champion Toronto Raptors.

This is Tyree’s moment. He’s on the watchlist for the Jerry West Award, an all-SEC preseason player and will likely be named to the Naismith Player of the Year watchlist come December. However, with expectations come responsibilities. As the face of a burgeoning program, Tyree must improve his play to an All-American level, not just all-SEC. The good news? The numbers say he will.

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FOOTBALL

Have two-quarterback systems ever worked?

CAMERON RICHARDSON
thedmsports@gmail.com

While the Rebels are clear favorites in Saturday's matchup against New Mexico State, the question that has loomed over Ole Miss's football program since Matt Corral's injury against Cal still exists: Does Ole Miss have a capable quarterback?

For the last three matchups, Ole Miss has used a two-quarterback system with little success, totaling three straight losses. The losses were close against formidable programs like Missouri, Texas A&M and Auburn, but near-losses are just that: losses.

Additionally, the two-quarterback approach has become less and less effective. In their last two matchups, Ole Miss scored only 31 points combined. Before those two games, Ole Miss has averaged roughly 27 points per contest. There has clearly been a breakdown in offensive efficiency.

Rarely does a two-quarterback system succeed. Teams that implement it can become predictable.

However, it is not impossible for this type of plan to work. The New Orleans Saints use Drew Brees as the primary quarterback while Taysom Hill serves as a flexible option.

Hill serves as a receiver,



BILLY SCHUERMAN / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

There a few examples of effective two-quarterback systems, and Rich Rodriguez's offense has been predictable in the last five weeks.

ations with Ole Miss, the larger running threat, John Rhys Plumlee, takes more snaps while Matt Corral fills in for more passing situations.

The Rebels' style is reversed from the Saints and 2006 Florida.

tional runner or receiver might cause problems.

Matt Luke and his staff will likely stay with Plumlee, especially given the competition Ole Miss will play Saturday. New Mexico State is winless. The spread favors Ole Miss by 28.5 points.

As this season ends and the next one approaches, the quarterback controversy in the Ole Miss camp might still subsist. Robby Ashford, a four-star recruit from Hoover High School in Alabama, is verbally committed to Ole Miss.

Ashford is the No. 7 dual-threat quarterback in the nation and, like Plumlee, will be playing baseball for the Rebels as well.

"They've got the perfect plan set up for me to play both sports," Ashford said. "I love Ole Miss. I'm not entertaining anyone else, I'm not taking visits anywhere else, I'm 100% there."

As this news is obviously excellent for the program, the collection of talent at the quarterback position might complicate the situation even more.

"They've got the perfect plan set up for me to play both sports. I love Ole Miss. I'm not entertaining anyone else, I'm not taking visits anywhere else, I'm 100% there."

- Robby Ashford
Quarterback recruit

running back and quarterback in multiple short-yardage packages, keeping opposing teams off their balance, but Brees is the primary passer who takes most of the snaps.

Another example is Tim Tebow for Florida in 2006. Tebow served as a situational running threat in place of Chris Leak at times, forcing the defense to worry about both a quarterback run and downfield pass.

Comparing these two situ-

This could take the primary passer out of his rhythm.

The quick fix would be to switch the roles, having Plumlee be the more flexible secondary option with Corral taking a leading role, but Plumlee's insertion created some semblance of a spark. One of Plumlee's largest reasons for committing to Ole Miss was his desire to gain plenty of experience as a traditional quarterback, and relegating his duties to a situa-



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Recital introduces two new faculty members

CAROLINE NIHILL
thedmfeatures@gmail.com

New faculty members Nave Graham and Austin Smith performed alongside associate professor of music Adam Estes Monday night.

Along with teaching saxophone and bassoon to students, Estes served as a search committee member who helped in hiring both Graham and Smith. The recital was an ordinary performance, but Estes used his platform to introduce the hires to the university.

“Both of them, I think, exhibited unbelievable skill on Monday night,” Estes said. “It was pretty obvious to all of us on the committee that they were outstanding at their craft.”

Graham and Smith both came from Cincinnati to teach at Ole Miss. Smith performed with multiple different orchestras, along with teaching at a small private college. Graham is an award-winning flutist along with previously holding the position of adjunct professor for Xavier University.

Smith had only been to Mississippi once before making the move for the instructor position at Ole Miss.



CAROLINE NIHILL / THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

New faculty members participate in a musical performance with fellow music instructors.

“It was a good move,” Smith said. “Everyone’s been very, very welcoming.”

Smith is instructing one-on-one oboe classes with students, and mentioned that he thinks that his performance helps with his teaching.

“I think it’s important for me to be out there performing a lot — both inside the university and outside — in order to share that experience with my students,” Smith said.

Graham commented on how

excited she was to perform at Ole Miss for the first time along with playing the specific pieces at the recital.

“I feel incredibly grateful not only to have been able to perform for the community on Monday, but that I felt welcomed on stage,” Graham said. “Yes, the music was a bit weird, but it seemed that the audience held an open mind and really enjoyed it. That’s what music is about for me, being able to share these new

experiences with people.”

Estes chose the music specifically for the trio of instruments, along with those that had deeper meaning for himself and potentially audience members.

“I’m going to choose music that I would enjoy playing with them and that would showcase them and and some way to sort of introduce them to our students and campus community at large,” Estes said. “This was their first time

to perform in that venue, and their first semester here of work.”

Part of the performance was music by Estes’ friend Marilyn Shrude titled, “Lacrimosa.” The piece is what Estes described as a prayer about a student of Shrude’s that passed away unexpectedly.

Estes expressed his emotional grief over unexpected news is what lead to his decision to perform this particular piece.

“It was really kind of a cathartic way for me to handle my emotions with news,” Estes said. “So, you know, we all kind of handle it in different ways, and for me, as an artist, to pour my energies into the art helps me.”

Graham mentioned how she enjoys the emotional connections made through music.

“Music has that profound ability to turn your emotional state within moments, and the thought that I get to be a part of that is really cool to me,” Graham said.

Smith will be performing Nov. 11 in the Nutt Auditorium for a faculty recital, along with more performances with different faculty members throughout the year.

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MISS MISSISSIPPI

continued from page 1

job. There’s so much more to me than meets the surface.”

As the first African American woman to receive this particular crown, Branch said she sees this as society moving forward.

“I never would have thought in my lifetime that I would have

been able to be a first winner when it comes to race,” Branch said. “If I could start any message along with it, it would be to inspire people to go after their dreams and their aspirations, even if the person that precedes them does not look just like them.”

Executive director of the Miss Mississippi USA pageant Kim Greenwood acknowledged that there have been multiple African American women who

have reached the top five in the circuit.

“(Asya) has worked hard her entire life and does so many incredible things for the state of Mississippi,” Greenwood said. “I know that she will represent Mississippi beautifully at the Miss USA pageant.”

Branch is originally from Michigan, moved to Mississippi in 2003 and has been competing in pageants since first grade. Branch partici-

pated in pageants every year and was crowned the 2018 Miss Mississippi in the Miss America circuit.

“I fell in love with it,” Branch said. “(When) being on stage, being in the spotlight, getting dolled up and wearing pretty dresses, I just felt like I was truly in my element.”

After completing that circuit, Branch moved to the Miss USA organization. Unlike the Miss America circuit, Miss

USA still includes the swimsuit portion, which is Branch’s favorite.

Branch will continue to make appearances, work with her modeling company and visit her sponsors until the next round of Miss USA. Branch will compete for the title of Miss USA in spring 2020. Miss USA will go on to represent the United States in the Miss Universe pageant.

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ACROSS

- 1- Stone marker;
- 6- ____ in the right direction;
- 11- B'way posting;
- 14- Hatch on the Hill;
- 15- High building;
- 16- First name in horror;
- 17- Hospital rooms;
- 18- Maine college town;
- 19- Citrus drink;
- 20- Identify;
- 22- Elector;
- 24- Accidents;
- 28- Sound investment?;
- 30- F equivalent;
- 31- Stock unit;
- 32- Overjoy;
- 33- The right-hand side;
- 37- Convert into leather;
- 38- Pizzeria order;
- 39- Avril follower;
- 40- Chitchat;
- 43- Buffalo hockey player;
- 45- Brownish gray;
- 46- Cereal grass;
- 47- Accessories;
- 49- Radiators;

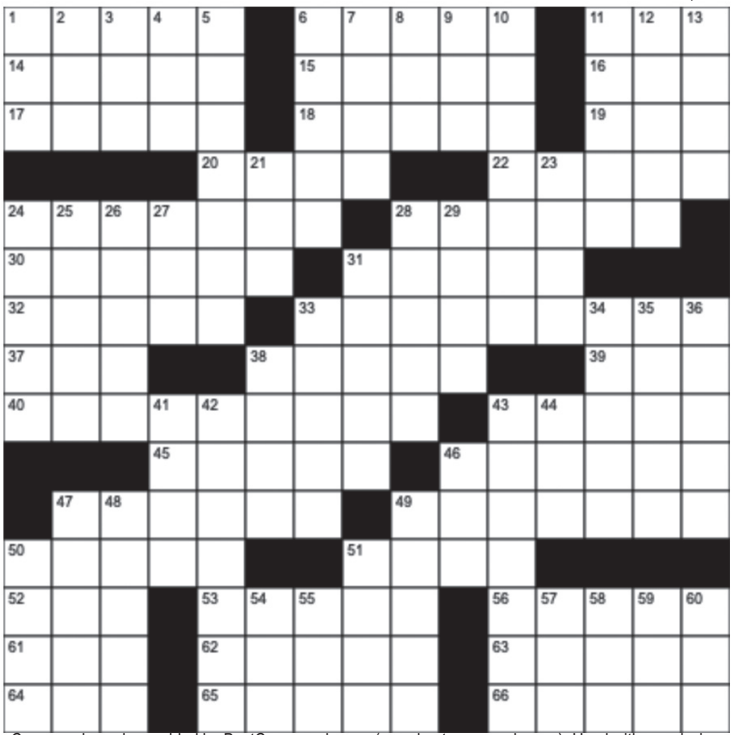
DOWN

- 1- Plant;
- 2- Refrain syllable;
- 3- Miss the mark;
- 4- Cover;
- 5- Capture in a trap;
- 6- Tiny particles;
- 7- Achy;
- 8- Tango need;
- 9- Velvet add-on;
- 10- Adage;
- 11- Roofing stone;
- 12- Cowboy display;
- 13- Standout;
- 21- PC program;
- 23- Hydrox competitor;
- 24- Runs into;
- 25- Religion of the Muslims;
- 26- Author Alexander;
- 27- Covering for the

SOLUTION TO 11.6.2019 PUZZLE



- head;
- 28- Rough cabin;
- 29- Shipping deduction;
- 31- Subway turner;
- 33- High-fives;
- 34- Saunter;
- 35- Less common;
- 36- Eats to a plan;
- 38- Render speechless;
- 41- Former Fords;
- 42- Vientiane native;
- 43- Like some cats;
- 44- Supermodel Carol;
- 46- Mal de ____;
- 47- Big name in insurance;
- 48- Father;
- 49- Loathes;
- 50- Prevaricated;
- 51- Sealed document;
- 54- Society-page word;
- 55- Hosp. sections;
- 57- Nothing but;
- 58- Theologian's sch.;
- 59- Shoebox letters;
- 60- Orch. section;



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6	7		5					2
5			3	9				
9	8				1			
		4				9		
			9				1	4
				3	2			1
7					8		6	9
	2	5				7		3

HOW TO PLAY

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

INTERMEDIATE

3	8	7	6	9	1	5	2	4
6	6	2	8	5	4	1	3	7
1	5	4	2	3	7	9	6	8
4	1	8	5	9	7	3	9	2
7	2	9	3	8	9	4	5	1
6	3	5	1	4	2	7	8	9
8	7	1	9	6	3	2	4	5
2	6	3	4	1	5	8	7	9
5	4	6	7	8	2	9	1	3

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OPINION

NATIONAL FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE CELEBRATION DAY

A letter to first-generation students

AINSLEY ASH

thedmopinion@gmail.com

Dear first-generation college student,

As a high schooler, I wanted nothing more than a way out of my hometown. For hours upon hours, I would sit at the kitchen table crafting scholarship essays, crunching the numbers and stumbling through FAFSA. Despite being at the top of my class, I only applied to state schools and community colleges within a three-hour drive. No one had told me not to. Or rather, no one had told me to aim just a little bit higher. My inherited small town mindset had won out.

Perhaps you can relate.

It was not until I was fully moved into my dorm that I

realized most students did not fill out the FAFSA on their own or attend orientation on their own. Never before had I seen such affluence concentrated in one place. If an unexpected \$500 expense would send half of Americans into debt, then how could my peers afford thousands of dollars a semester on sororities and fraternities? All of my money went to simply existing and saving. Even if there were a desire to fit into this lifestyle, there was no room in my budget or calendar, and I had no intentions of compromising my upward mobility. I questioned whether or not I belonged on such a campus.

Maybe you experienced this as well.

Quickly, I came to realize that I could no longer consult my

family — my greatest advocates — for daily life advice. They could not help me navigate internships, relationships with professors and simple tasks like email etiquette. It was no fault of their own, nor mine, that their kind words of encouragement could not translate in this overwhelmingly upper-middle class environment.

I am sure you understand.

Now a junior, I am incredibly grateful for my identity as a first-generation student and the unique perspective that it has granted me. At first, I believed that I should fit at the university, but now I am quite confident that the university should fit the needs of its students, first-generation students included. Rather than asking ourselves, “Do I belong here?” let us ask instead, “Why is

there a lack of economic diversity here?”

When I feel self-doubt creep in, I remind myself that imposter syndrome is very real and dangerous. So is the “hidden curriculum,” the unspoken rules of this very particular game that all students must play. It has only been through frank conversations with professors and mentors that gaps in my knowledge of this space has been filled in.

Over Thanksgiving break, I will return to the same kitchen table where I worked three years ago. This time, instead of working on college applications, I will be studying for this semester’s final exams with a similar fervor. Soon enough, I will begin applying to graduate schools, and I am confident that this time, my

inherited fears will not inhibit me.

I hope yours will not inhibit you.

Some of you will return home to your families for the first time since the beginning of the semester. Let seeing your parents, grandparents and siblings serve as a reminder of why you sought a degree in the first place. Think of the efforts they put in for you to get here. Share with your younger siblings the excitement of exploring a strange, new town and gaining new perspectives.

First-gen student, continue to make your space here — especially when this space was not created for you. You earned it.

Ainsley Ash is a junior public policy leadership major from Meridian, Mississippi.

Lt. governor race is a model for civility

EMILY STEWART

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Jim Hood, the former Democratic candidate for governor and self-described moderate, was nothing more than a local Bernie Sanders, according to Governor-elect Tate Reeves. In a recent campaign video, Reeves gives credit to Sanders for acknowledging tax increases and demands the same from Hood. The caption, “Bernie Sanders or Jim Hood? They’re both planning to raise taxes. They’re both coming for your money. Jim Hood is Mississippi’s local liberal,” pegged Hood as something he has said time and time again that he isn’t: a liberal.

This name-calling is abundant in elections all over the country. However, in sharp contrast, the race for lieutenant governor has shown to be one that did not include partisan banter and created opportunities

for collaboration across the aisle.

The campaign websites of Jay Hughes and Delbert Hosemann, the two candidates for the Mississippi lieutenant governor race, have many commonalities. For instance, under “issues,” their websites have almost identical pictures of them reading to children. But the similarities don’t stop there. Hughes and Hosemann have both been soldiers, lawyers, husbands and fathers, and based on their websites, most of the items in their campaigns align as well. Hughes and Hosemann also have the X-factor that is missing from most modern elections: respect toward their opponent.

A quick Google search reveals that Hughes and Hosemann tend to agree more than disagree, even on issues that, today, are seen as one-sided. Their stances on the state flag is just one example.

The worst aspect of politics is when politicians refuse to collaborate with the other side

because the aisle seems too big. I’m a Democrat, but I was impressed when I saw this quote from Hosemann, “We can do this. It’s not a Democrat or Republican thing. We just need to get away from saying, ‘Well, I’m just absolutely not going to do anything that has to do with anything.’”

In today’s political climate, politicians seem to put up their party as a defense. They won’t vote for something because it was brought forward by a member of another party, and they refuse to acknowledge that what benefits Democrats can also benefit Republicans because we’re all people who just need a little help.

Hughes, with his campaign of transparency in government and promises for local businesses, took hints from the gubernatorial candidate, Jim Hood, whom, through Hood’s commercials, you might not even know is a Democrat. Hughes said, “I want to join people together. I

believe in compromise, humility and respect, not ‘my way or the highway.’”

Refreshing is the only way I can describe this phenomenon of Mississippi politics. It shows that you don’t have to be so entrenched with your party that you can’t work with others. As someone who has volunteered in elections before, I heard from most people that they are pledging to vote with their respective party, but it doesn’t have to be that way.

You can have a multitude

of opinions that span multiple parties, and as long as you vote for the person you believe will get the job done, well, that’s all that matters. I never thought I would say it, but this example of Mississippi politics gave me hope for the future.

Emily Stewart is a freshman international studies and Arabic major from Columbia, Tennessee.

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INTERIM

continued from page 1

the university for 26 years, previously acting as the assistant vice chancellor for student affairs and currently serving as the assistant provost and the registrar in the Office of the Provost.

As vice chancellor for student affairs, Hephner LaBanc oversaw all student affairs on campus, including the dean of students and other offices, such as campus recreation, the Ole Miss Student Union and the office

of Fraternal Leadership and Learning. She served as vice chancellor for student affairs since July 2012.

Hephner LaBanc accepted the position of vice chancellor for student affairs and campus life at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Her last day at Ole Miss will be Nov. 12.

Before taking the job at Amherst, Hephner LaBanc was a finalist for a similar position in April at the University of Utah. She was not selected for the position and stayed at Ole Miss.

The announcement that

Hephner LaBanc was leaving the university came eight days after Glenn Boyce was announced as the university's 18th chancellor. Her leave adds to the change of positions among leadership on campus, specifically in the office of student affairs. Last spring, Dean of Students Melinda Sutton Noss and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Leslie Banahan left their posts.

Provost Noel Wilkin said that the university will launch a national search to find a replacement for Hephner LaBanc in a statement last month.



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Charlotte Fant Pegues.



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